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CUBA-SOVIETS
BY HUBERT ERB

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USSR

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD QUICKLY DISCLOSE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE "THE SOVIET COMMITMENT REGARDING CUBA," SEN. RICHARD STONE SAID TUESDAY.

STONE SAID HE HAD MADE HIS REQUEST TO CARTER IN A LETTER ASKING ABOUT SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH IN CUBA. THE FLORIDA DEMOCRAT SAID HE ALSO URGED CARTER TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION CONCERNING A HIGH-RANKING SOVIET BRIGADE COMMAND STRUCTURE REPORTED TO BE IN CUBA.

STONE, A MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, CITED NEWS ACCOUNTS THAT SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD CONFIRMED THAT SUCH A COMMAND STRUCTURE EXISTED.

A WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN, DALE LEIBACH, SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PUBLIC COMMENT UNTIL AFTER THE PRESIDENT HAD SEEN THE LETTER.

A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, HOWEVER, SAID "SEVERAL THOUSAND" SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE IN CUBA, BUT HAD BEEN THERE FOR SOME TIME.

STONE SAID CARTER HAD WRITTEN HIM LAST YEAR SAYING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD OPPOSE ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT EFFORT BY THE SOVIET UNION TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY BASE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

STONE SAID THE UNITED STATES SHOULD EXERCISE SPECIAL CAUTION CONCERNING SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN LIGHT OF THE TURMOIL IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

STONE SAID HE WAS NOT YET SATISFIED WITH ASSURANCES GIVEN THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE BY DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO "SUBSTANTIAL" INCREASE IN THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN CUBA.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DAVID WALL, IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY TUESDAY NIGHT, ECHOED BROWN'S POSITION. "WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF ANY RECENT SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CUBA," WALL SAID.

HE SAID SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN IN CUBA SINCE THE MISSILE CRISIS OF 1962, "AT NUMBERS RANGING FROM ABOUT 20,000 DURING THE MISSILE CRISIS TO A FEW THOUSAND SINCE THEN."

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